

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended and claims 21-23 are added for the Examiner's consideration. The above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. For example, support for the amendments is provided at FIGS. 2-3, and at pages 5-7 of the specification. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-12, 15-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,695 issued to Sarukkai, *et al.* ("Sarukkai") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,415,368 issued to Glance, *et al.* ("Glance"). Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sarukkai in view of Glance, and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0041143 to Ronald, *et al.* ("Ronald"). Claims 13-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sarukkai in view of Glance, and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156881 to Klopp, *et al.* ("Klopp").

Applicants note that the Board has reversed the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,765 issued to Asai, *et al.* ("Asai") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0074580 to Knouse, *et al.* ("Knouse"), and further in view of Glance. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 20 includes allowable subject matter, and should be placed in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 9, upon which claims 2-8 and 10-19 depend, to incorporate the allowable subject matter of independent claim 20. As such,

Applicants submit that the §103 rejections of claims 1-19 are rendered moot in view of the claim amendments, and respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

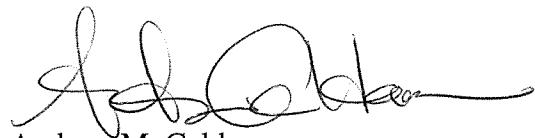
New Claims

Claims 21-23 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 21-23 are dependent claims, depending from distinguishable independent claims 1, 9, and 20, respectively. For this reason, and on their own merits, these claims include allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. **09-0457**.

Respectfully submitted,
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